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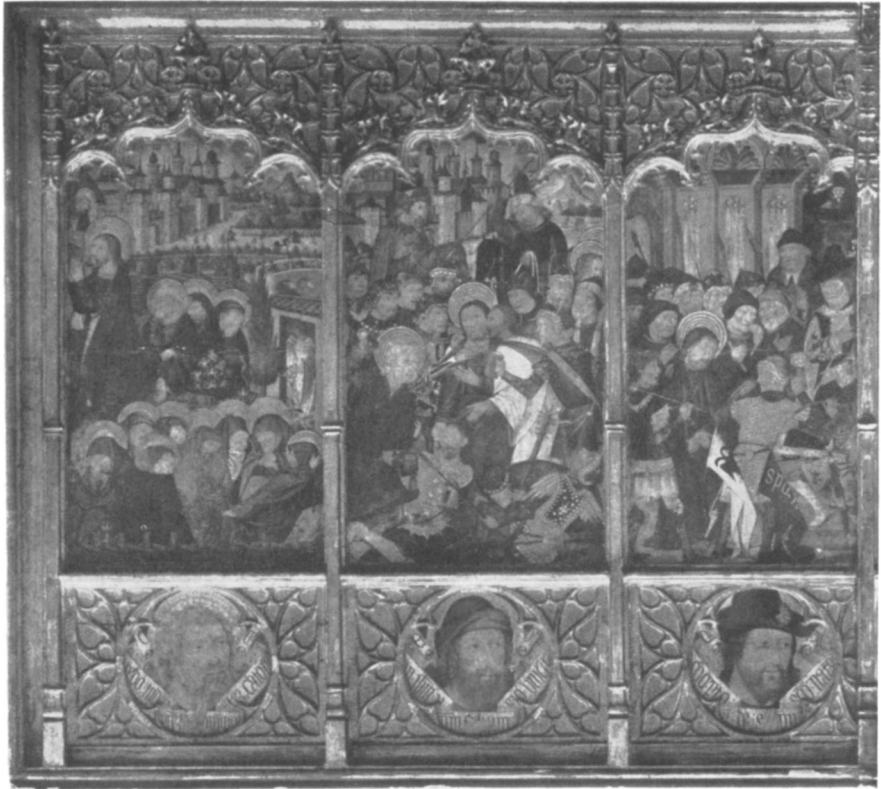
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ALTARPIECE (LEFT HALF)  
SPANISH, FIFTEENTH CENTURY

#### SPANISH ALTARPIECE

THE Spanish altarpiece which was given to the Museum by Mr. William M. Laffan is now on view in the Room of Recent Acquisitions. It has been shown here before, during the summer of 1907, when it was exhibited in Gallery 11. In an article in the BULLETIN for May of that year, Mr. Roger Fry ascribes the painting tentatively to the Catalan artist Jaime Vergos II, who was active in the latter part of the fifteenth century. A comparison of the work in question with the reproductions of the paintings of Jaime Vergos II in the Museum of Barcelona, shows striking similarity of

form and manner of drawing, and bears out the plausibility of the attribution.

The altarpiece is made up of six compartments surrounded by gilded Gothic tracery. The main panels of these compartments contain scenes from the Passion and below them in medallions are large heads of saints. The halos and gold ornaments on the costumes and armor are built out in relief with *gesso*, and an abundance of gold is used throughout. This, with the strong reds and blues which predominate in the painted parts, gives to the work a particularly rich and brilliant effect. The painter's chief intention, however, seems to have been dramatic rather than decorative. In subjects like the Betrayal



ALTARPIECE (RIGHT HALF)  
SPANISH, FIFTEENTH CENTURY

and the Crowning with Thorns, the turbulence of the scenes is admirably expressed. In striking contrast with these is the repose and stillness of the first panel, the Agony in the Garden. The group of sleeping Apostles in the foreground of this picture has real grandeur of conception.

The Museum now owns two excellent examples of the work of the Catalan School—this altarpiece and the large one dedicated to Saint Andrew, attributed to Luis Borossa, which was purchased in 1906.

B. B.

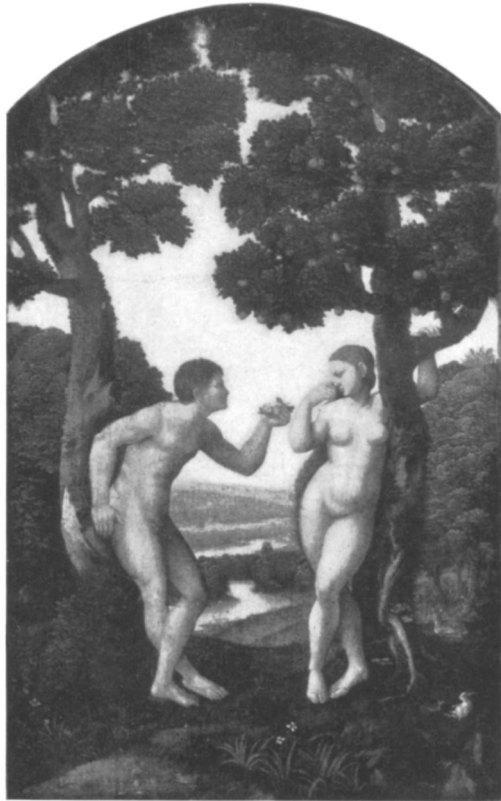
A FLEMISH PAINTING OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.—The gift of an early Flemish panel from Mrs. Stanford White was an-

nounced in last month's BULLETIN. This excellent little picture is now exhibited in the Room of Recent Accessions. It has been ascribed by Dr. Friedländer to the School of Patinir, and dates from about the middle of the sixteenth century. The figures and the big forms of the landscape have been copied from Marc-Antonio's well-known engraving of Adam and Eve, after Raphael's drawing. There are slight changes throughout, particularly in Adam's head and figure, in the direction of the trees and in the absence of the woman-headed snake—and the painter has given free play to his fancy in the manner in which he has filled his painting with the most intricate and charming details. The German houses

which blemish the terrestrial Paradise in the engraving have been omitted and in their place a wide expanse of valley and winding river opens out, with successive ranges of blue hills, becoming fainter and fainter as they meet the sky. Swans float on the stream from which the sheep drink, while closer to the high ground on which the figures stand are stately groves where deer rub their horns against the tree trunks;

rabbits play at Eve's feet, while snails, a frog, and exquisitely worked flowers fill the foreground places and show where the spontaneous interest of the artist lay, rather than in the figures. But the chief merit of the work is in the decorative silhouette of the trees against the sky and in the depth of the sky itself, which blends imperceptibly from rich blue near the zenith into a luminous haze at the horizon.

B. B.



ADAM AND EVE  
FLEMISH, SIXTEENTH CENTURY

## BULLETIN OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

**MEMBERSHIP.**—At the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on Monday, February 21st, the following persons were elected members of the Museum in the classes designated:

### HONORARY FELLOWS FOR LIFE

DON FEDERICO GAMBOA, Sub-Secretary of Foreign Relations of the Mexican Government  
JOHN G. JOHNSON, Philadelphia, Pa.

### FELLOWS IN PERPETUITY

DAVID DOWS  
WILLIAM D. SLOANE  
MRS. JOHN B. TREVOR

### FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS

DUNCAN B. HARDING

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

H. EUGENE BOLLES  
ALEXANDER CRISTADORO  
JOSEPH DOWD  
E. FEUERMANN

**THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MUSEUM.**—There has just been printed by the Trustees a new edition of the pamphlet issued in 1905, embodying the Museum's Act of Incorporation, Constitu-

tion, By-Laws, Lease of the City Building which it occupies, and the Laws of New York relating to the Corporation.

The volume contains, also, a summary of the changes made in the Constitution since 1870, and an index to the whole, prepared with special regard to the rapidly growing number of museums and their need of help in such matters when in the act of organization.

Copies of the pamphlet will be sent on application.

**THE ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Annual Report of the Trustees for the past year, a portion of which appears in this issue of the BULLETIN, will be printed and distributed to the members of the Museum during the coming month.

**THE LIBRARY.**—The additions to the Library during the past month were one hundred and eighty volumes, divided as follows: by purchase one hundred and sixty-five volumes, by gift fifteen volumes.

The names of the donors are: Mr. George Hall Baker, Professor Bashford Dean, Mr. George A. Hearn, and Mr. G. Sangiorgi.

The attendance during the month was three hundred and twenty-four.



ALTARPIECE (DETAIL)  
SPANISH, FIFTEENTH CENTURY